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JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 MAY 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-28.

29. (New) A video camera arrangement comprising:

an image capture device having an associated lens with an adjustable focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting;

a face detector for detecting human faces in the captured video material and for generating face data identifying detected occurrences of faces in the captured video material, the face detector being responsive to the lens focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting and/or the start and end point of a contiguous video shot;

a data handling medium by which data representing the captured images is transmitted and/or stored, the data handling medium comprising a storage medium for storing the captured images and a metadata store for storing metadata associated with the captured video material, the metadata including the face data generated by the face detector and at least one of the lens focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting; and

a processor for generating data to be transmitted or stored by the data handling medium in dependence on the detection of faces in the captured images.

30. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, in which the metadata store is arranged to store metadata on the same storage medium as the captured video material.

31. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, in which the metadata store comprises a removable storage device connectable to the camera arrangement.

32. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, in which the metadata store comprises:

- a storage device external to the camera arrangement; and
- a wireless link between the camera arrangement and the storage device.

33. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, in which:

the face detector is operable to detect a probability of a human face being present in each field or frame of the captured video material; and

the metadata store is operable to store a representation of at least one face from each contiguous sequence of captured video material, that face being the face having the highest associated probability from the contiguous sequence.

34. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, the camera arrangement being a unitary device.

35. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 29, the data handling medium being operable to store and/or transmit data representing captured audio material associated with the captured video material.

36. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 35, comprising a speech detector; and in which the face detector is responsive to a detection of speech in the captured audio material.

37. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 35, having two or more associated microphones, the processor and/or face detector being responsive to audio signals from the microphones to identify a face associated with a current speaker.

38. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 35, comprising logic, responsive to the face detector, to derive a subset of at least some of the captured images for storage and/or transmission by the data handling medium.
39. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 38, in which the subset comprises a cropped image containing at least each face detected by the face detector.
40. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 38, in which the subset, in respect of a captured image, comprises a number of cropped images equal to the number of detected faces in that captured image, each cropped image representing one detected face.
41. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 40, comprising a user control for selecting display properties of each of the cropped images.
42. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 41, in which:  
the data handling medium is a transmission medium; and  
the user control relates to a remote node of the transmission medium.
43. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 38, in which the subset, in respect of a captured image, comprises a cropped image representing a single detected face.
44. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 35, comprising logic to alter a degree of data compression applied to portions of the image in dependence upon whether a face has been detected at those portions.
45. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 44, being operable to apply a harsher data compression to portions of a captured image not detected to contain a face.

46. (New) A camera arrangement according to claim 35, comprising logic, responsive to the face detector, to control the lens zoom and/or direction of the image capture device in dependence upon the face data.

47. (New) A video conferencing arrangement comprising two or more camera arrangements according to claim 35, each camera arrangement having an associated display arrangement, the data handling medium being a transmission medium linking the two or more camera arrangements.

48. (New) A security monitoring arrangement comprising a camera arrangement according to claim 35.

49. (New) A method of operating a video camera arrangement having an image capture device with an associated lens having an adjustable focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting, a storage medium for storing captured images and a metadata store for storing metadata associated with the captured video material, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting human faces in the captured video material and for generating face data  
identifying detected occurrences of faces in the captured video material, the face detecting step being responsive to the lens focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting and/or the start and end point of a contiguous video shot; and

generating data representing the captured images for storage and/or transmission, in dependence on the face data generated by the face detector;

in which the metadata includes the face data generated by the face detecting step and at least one of the lens focus and/or zoom and/or aperture setting.

50. (New) Computer software having program code for carrying out a method according to claim 49.
51. (New) A providing medium for providing program code according to claim 50.
52. (New) A medium according to claim 51, the medium being a storage medium.
53. (New) A medium according to claim 51, the medium being a transmission medium.